

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
April 3rd, 2023
Old schoolhouse common & Zoom

Members In attendance: Nick Seifert, Mike Xenakis, Anne Miller, Wes Cate

Public: Rich Phillips, Sam Lash, Michael Billingsly,

- Public Comments
 - None.
- Announcements
 - Waterbury LEAP festival, April 15th.
 - Better Building By Design conference this week. Mike will try to bring back some good stuff.
 - League of cities and towns webinar on committee requirements on April 19th.
- Agenda Modifications
 - None
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motioned and approved
- Business
 - Plainfield updates
 - OSC lighting
 - Anne raised a question about whether the OSC is still using mercury tube lights. She found a broken one in the gym, and people were not aware of the mercury issue.
 - Wes was aware of both drop-in, and re-wire style of LED bulbs.
 - Nick to talk to selectboard about buying some replacements.
 - Town meeting comments / thoughts
 - Nothing energy related. Considerable discussion about the future of Town Meeting.
 - Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates
 - EV charging grants / funding updates?
 - No updates here yet, not any big word yet on programs rolling out.
 - EV Bus grant updates
 - This is up in the air a bit, Mark Tucker is trying to modify the application, but is waiting to hear if this is possible or not.
 - Food shelf updates
 - Progress is being made, materials are purchased, going to start building soon.
 - OSC Building committee updates
 - Not much to share, no meeting since last time. Municipal grant info has just come out. Mike filled out the survey for Marshfield. There is an information workshop coming up related to this, and Rich Phillips has volunteered to help with the grant writing process. No audit yet scheduled.
 - Sam Lash from CVRPC has joined. There is an upcoming webinar which will be pretty high level. Sam is helping with the program, but we do not have to work through her on the grant program. A big focus is on municipal buildings and facilities.
 - The first grant area is for “community capacity,” supporting energy resilience—events, energy fairs, energy committee work of some kind, an annual event of some kind. Can't

buy equipment, unless it's for a demo. Sam suggested the "Footprint Project," which is like a mobile solar/battery setup for emergency response / community events, etc.

- <https://centralvtplanning.org/programs/energy/municipal-energy-resilience-grant-program/>
- The second grant area is "Phase 1," and must do this to be eligible for the second. This is free energy assessment, paid for by the state. This is part of the program. Applications are not open yet, but will be open very soon (in the next week or two). Not just "first come first served," there are other criteria. There will be four state contractors doing this work, and the deadline for completion is later in 2023. She also recommends speaking with Meg from the village about this, to try and get town/village to work together. They are providing "Level 2" audits, so long as the town provides necessary information.
 - Annual energy use, system information, dates of renovations, past audits, known hazardous materials,
 - Getting the audit done makes people eligible for getting project implementation fund money. This portion of the project won't start accepting applications for at least a year.
- Sam Lash mentioned about EPA clean School Bus program. There are EV bus demos available over the next couple/few months going on, reach out to Sam to help schedule this.
- Weatherization and Wood Heat
 - Wes mentioned the Affordable heat act, which he believes is waiting for the Governor's veto, though there may be enough votes for an override.
 - Mike mentioned that some of the building incentives are starting to show up through Energy Star and helping out new homes.
 - Michael Billingsly shared a comment about his high efficiency wood stove: BlazeKing.com for products, the very low emission (certified) modern wood stoves will probably impress you. They are the only one in their class, worldwide... I believe. And they use no electricity, unlike pellet stoves.
- Upper Winooski Community Solar
 - Wes gave an update here. On the 20th of April at 12:30pm with Kevin from the solar company, Michael from Forest Farmers, Kathleen, plus Ellen and John. This will be to discuss the suitability of a solar installation at the Forest Farmers location, behind the "farmhouse". Have not yet heard from Kevin about agricultural integration with solar (Kathleen's site). No word from Maple Hill School.
- Enhanced Energy Plan / Town plan update
 - Needs to be discussed with the Selectboard. Could be updated with new GIS data, but no word from CVRPC about when this is available.
- Window Dressers
 - Ellen not present here. Mike connected Ellen with Henry Harris, who is also interested in Window Dressers.
- Marshfield town municipal solar / GMP Billing changes
 - More to come.
- Michael Billingsly mentioned that GMP may have some type of municipal battery storage program they were interested in trying a pilot program.
- Selectboard items:

- Air quality sensor
 - Nick to purchase this and begin developing some literature to help when loaning this device out.
- Marshfield Dam tour
 - Nick Working to get this scheduled. GMP has offered to attend the 5/2 or 5/16.
- Town Plan update / Special meeting?
- Tentative agenda for next time:
 - Public Comments
 - Announcements
 - Agenda modification
 - Minutes approval
 - Business
 - Plainfield Updates
 - OSC Lighting update?
 - Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates
 - EV Charging Station Grants
 - EV Bus updates
 - OSC Building updates
 - Food shelf updates
 - Weatherization & wood heat updates
 - Upper Winooski Community Solar update
 - Enhanced Energy Plan / Town update
 - Window Dressers
 - Marshfield Municipal Solar / GMP Bill updates
 - Selectboard Items:
 - Marshfield Dam tour / Selectboard Visit
 - Town plan update
 - Air quality Sensor

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81849951406?pwd=Y3c0b2dKQzYvOGwvWFpYYlI1OGxiQT09>

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